

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - 5 detecting a change to a computing environment;
in response to detecting said change, predicting a set of outcomes resulting from said change;
monitoring the computing environment to determine whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred;
 - 10 reporting that one or more of the predicted set of outcomes has occurred.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of outcomes is predicted based on a set of predictive rules.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred comprises comparing the performance of the database after the change to a historical baseline.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said reporting includes making recommendations
20 on alternate changes to the computing environment.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein said reporting includes a summary of said historical baseline.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the complex computing environment is a database, and wherein the method further comprises recording information about the database, wherein the information includes the number and type of transactions carried out by the database, timing information associated with each transaction, and information

on changes to user settings, database definitions, and schema definitions within the database.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the information is recorded by a sampling
5 technique.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein the set of predictive rules are derived from multiple databases on the recorded effects of various changes.

10 9. A system comprising:
a computing environment;
a performance management system operable to:
detect a change to the computing environment;
predict a set of outcomes resulting from said change in response to
15 detecting said change;
monitor the computing environment to determine whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred;
report that one or more of the predicted set of outcomes has occurred.

20 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the performance management system is operable to predict the set of outcomes based on a set of predictive rules.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein the performance management system is operable to determine whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred by comparing the
25 performance of the computing environment after the change to a historical baseline.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein the performance management system is operable to report by making recommendations on alternate changes to the computing environment.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein the performance management system is further operable to report by summarizing said historical baseline.
- 5 14. The system of claim 9 wherein the computing environment is a database, and wherein the performance management system is further operable to record information about the database, wherein the information includes the number and type of transactions carried out by the database, timing information associated with each transaction, and information on changes to user settings and schema definitions within the database.
- 10 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the performance management information system is further operable to record said information about the database with a sampling technique.
- 15 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the set of predictive rules are derived from multiple databases on the recorded effects of various changes.
17. A computer readable medium including program instructions executable to implement a method comprising:
- 20 detecting a change to a computing environment;
predicting a set of outcomes resulting from said change in response to
detecting said change;
monitoring the computing environment to determine whether any of the set
of outcomes has occurred;
- 25 reporting that one or more of the predicted set of outcomes has occurred.
18. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the set of outcomes is predicted based on a set of predictive rules.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein determining whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred comprises comparing the performance of the database after the change to a historical baseline.

5 20. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein said reporting includes making recommendations on alternate changes to the computing environment.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein said reporting includes a summary of said historical baseline.

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22. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the computing environment is a database, and wherein the method further comprises recording information about the database, wherein the information includes the number and type of transactions carried out by the database, timing information associated with each transaction, and information
15 on changes to user settings and schema definitions within the database.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein the information is recorded by a sampling technique.

20 24. The computer readable medium of claim 18 wherein the set of predictive rules includes information derived from multiple databases on the recorded effects of various changes.

25. A system comprising:
25 means for detecting a change to a computing environment;
means for predicting a set of outcomes resulting from said change in response to detecting said change;
means for monitoring the computing environment to determine whether any of the set of outcomes has occurred;

means for reporting that one or more of the predicted set of outcomes has occurred.